

U.S.S.N. 10/562,350

-5-

GKNG 1259 PCT

**What Is Claimed Is:**

1. (currently amended) A coupling assembly comprising an axial setting device in the form of a ball ramp assembly with an axially supported supporting disc and an axially displaceable pressure disc which, in their end faces facing one another, are provided with ball grooves whose depth is circumferentially variable in opposite directions, wherein balls via which the supporting disc and the pressure disc axially support one another run in pairs of ball grooves and wherein the supporting disc and the pressure disc are rotatable relative to one another by being driven by a motor, wherein the pressure disc acts on the first pressure plate and the coupling assembly is loaded by a second pressure plate, wherein a disc spring is arranged between the first pressure plate and the second pressure plate, wherein the apex of the disc angle of the disc spring points towards the first pressure plate and which disc spring, at its outer circumference, is axially secured in the a coupling carrier, and acts on the second pressure plate by an intermediate diameter (D3) and, at its inner edge, rests against the first pressure plate.

2.-7. (cancelled)

8. (new) A coupling assembly according to claim 1, wherein a distance (D1) between an outer edge of the disc spring and the intermediate diameter (D3) is smaller than a distance (D2) between the intermediate diameter and an inner edge of the disc spring (43).

9. (new) A coupling assembly according to claim 8, wherein (D1) is less than (D2) by a multiple thereof.

10. (new) A coupling assembly according to claim 1, wherein the second pressure plate, on the intermediate diameter (D3), comprises a formed on annular collar which is in contact with the disc spring.

U.S.S.N. 10/562,350

-6-

GKNG 1259 PCT

11. (new) A coupling assembly according to claim 8, wherein the second pressure plate, on the intermediate diameter (D3), comprises a formed on annular collar which is in contact with the disc spring.

12. (new) A coupling assembly according to claim 1, wherein the disc  
5 spring, by its inner edge, freely rests against a radial face of the first pressure plate.

13. (new) A coupling assembly according to claim 8, wherein the disc spring, by its inner edge, freely rests against a radial face of the first pressure plate.

14. (new) A coupling assembly according to claim 1, wherein the disc  
10 spring, by its outer edge, is axially fixed between two securing rings secured in the coupling carrier.

15. (new) A coupling assembly according to claim 8, wherein the disc spring, by its outer edge, is axially fixed between two securing rings secured in the coupling carrier.

16. (new) A coupling assembly according to claim 12, wherein the disc  
15 spring, by its outer edge, is axially fixed between two securing rings secured in the coupling carrier.

17. (new) A coupling assembly according to claim 1 comprising a multi-plate coupling with said coupling carrier and a coupling hub, whose coupling plates are alternately connected to the coupling carrier and the coupling hub, wherein  
20 the plate package is axially supported against the coupling carrier.

18. (new) A coupling assembly according to claim 8 comprising a multi-plate coupling with said coupling carrier and a coupling hub, whose coupling plates are alternately connected to the coupling carrier and the coupling hub, wherein the plate package is axially supported against the coupling carrier.

19. (new) A coupling assembly according to claim 12 comprising a  
25 multi-plate coupling with said coupling carrier and a coupling hub, whose coupling

U.S.S.N. 10/562,350

-7-

GKNG 1259 PCT

plates are alternately connected to the coupling carrier and the coupling hub, wherein the plate package is axially supported against the coupling carrier.

20. (new) A coupling assembly according to claim 14 comprising a multi-plate coupling with said coupling carrier and a coupling hub, whose coupling  
5 plates are alternately connected to the coupling carrier and the coupling hub, wherein the plate package is axially supported against the coupling carrier.

21. (new) A coupling assembly according to claim 1 comprising an axial bearing arranged between the first pressure plate and the pressure disc of the ball ramp assembly.

10 22. (new) A coupling assembly according to claim 8 comprising an axial bearing arranged between the first pressure plate and the pressure disc of the ball ramp assembly.

15 23. (new) A coupling assembly according to claim 12 comprising an axial bearing arranged between the first pressure plate and the pressure disc of the ball ramp assembly.

24. (new) A coupling assembly according to claim 14 comprising an axial bearing arranged between the first pressure plate and the pressure disc of the ball ramp assembly.

20 25. (new) A coupling assembly according to claim 17 comprising an axial bearing arranged between the first pressure plate and the pressure disc of the ball ramp assembly.